



Port Community Information Bulletin # 07-05
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2191
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: 20 April, 2005
Expiration Date: Not applicable

VESSEL RESPONSE PLANS FOR NONTANK VESSELS

This Port Community Information Bulletin (PCIB) is to inform vessel owners and operators that the Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act of 2004 requires certain nontank vessels to develop and submit oil response plans by August 8, 2005. The 2004 Act defines "nontank vessel" as a self propelled vessel of 400 gross tons or greater, other than a tank vessel, that carries oil of any kind as fuel for main propulsion and that is a vessel of the United States or operates on the navigable waters of the United States.

The 2004 Act requires the Coast Guard to issue response plan regulations. However, to assist industry in meeting the August 8, 2005, deadline, the Coast Guard has issued guidance in Navigation and Inspection Circular 01-05 (NVIC 01-05) that can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic>.

The NVIC does not apply to the following types of vessels:

- (1) Public vessels and vessels deemed to be public under 14 U.S.C. 827;
- (2) Vessels of opportunity when conducting response operations in a response area;
- (3) Foreign flag vessels engaged in innocent passage;
- (4) Non-tank vessels, which are constructed or operated in a manner, such that no oil in any kind can be carried aboard as fuel for main propulsion.

Owners and operators are encouraged to submit plans as soon as possible. Once the plan is submitted to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard may issue either (1) an interim authorization letter attesting that the response plan has been submitted and is under review or (2) a valid authorization letter attesting that the submitted plan has been approved. As discussed in the NVIC, until superseded by regulations, nontank vessels must have a valid interim authorization letter or valid authorization letter in order to operate on or after August 9, 2005.

Plans must be submitted to the following address:

Commandant (G-MOR-2)
U. S. Coast Guard
2100 Second Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20593-001
Attn: VRP Programs

Questions regarding this PCIB may be directed to Lieutenant Ken Morton at (813) 228-2191, Ext. 8132.

/s/

D. R. BIRD
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Alternate Captain of the Port